

# Conservation Area Master Plan SPUR CROSS RANCH

Newsletter 3

June 2003

## Common Ground

The first public open house for the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area (SCRCA) Master Plan was conducted almost one year ago. Since that time, hundreds of comments have been received, and considered from the public, stakeholder groups and agencies. The second round of public and stakeholder events were held in January 2003. The overall prevailing comment received throughout the process has been that SCRCA is an extraordinarily rare and unique resource that should be conserved and protected in perpetuity.

## The Vision

Early in the planning process, the following vision statement provided the framework to work towards a delicate balance between the conservation of natural and cultural resources of SCRCA and its public use:

*"To protect and enhance the conservation area's archaeological, historical, and natural resources, including the integrity of its ecological processes, while providing opportunities for non-motorized public day-use recreation and education."*

## Update

The SCRCA planning team, in conjunction with input received from the public and stakeholders, has selected a management zone alternative to move forward in the planning process (Figure 1). This selection was based, in part, on public and stakeholder input received during the January 2003 meetings as well as criteria contained within the U.S. Department of Agriculture Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) (General Technical Report INT-176, January 1985). Comments received during these meetings can be viewed at: [www.maricopa.gov/parks/spur\\_cross](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/spur_cross).

Three management zone alternatives were presented to the public and stakeholders in January 2003. The selected Preferred Alternative represents a balanced hybrid of the three alternatives presented and incorporates two primary comments that were voiced:

1. The "back-country" management zone was not needed.
2. The alignment of the proposed Maricopa County Regional Trail was preferred to be the shorter alignment, which also stayed below the upper mesa areas of SCRCA.

Major allowable uses within the Preferred Alternative's management zones are shown as pictograms within the map on the following page.



Conservation Area Master Plan  
Spur Cross Ranch



MARICOPA COUNTY  
Parks and Recreation Department

## Contact Information

For more information about the SCRCA Master Plan process or if you would like to be added to the project mailing list, please contact the public involvement coordinator at:

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Or visit the Maricopa County web site at:

**[www.maricopa.gov/parks/spur\\_cross](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/spur_cross)**



## NEXT STEPS

With the selection of the Preferred Alternative, the planning team is able to develop, more specifically, the master plan in terms of proposed facilities and improvements that are environmentally compatible within specific management zones. These facilities and improvements include:

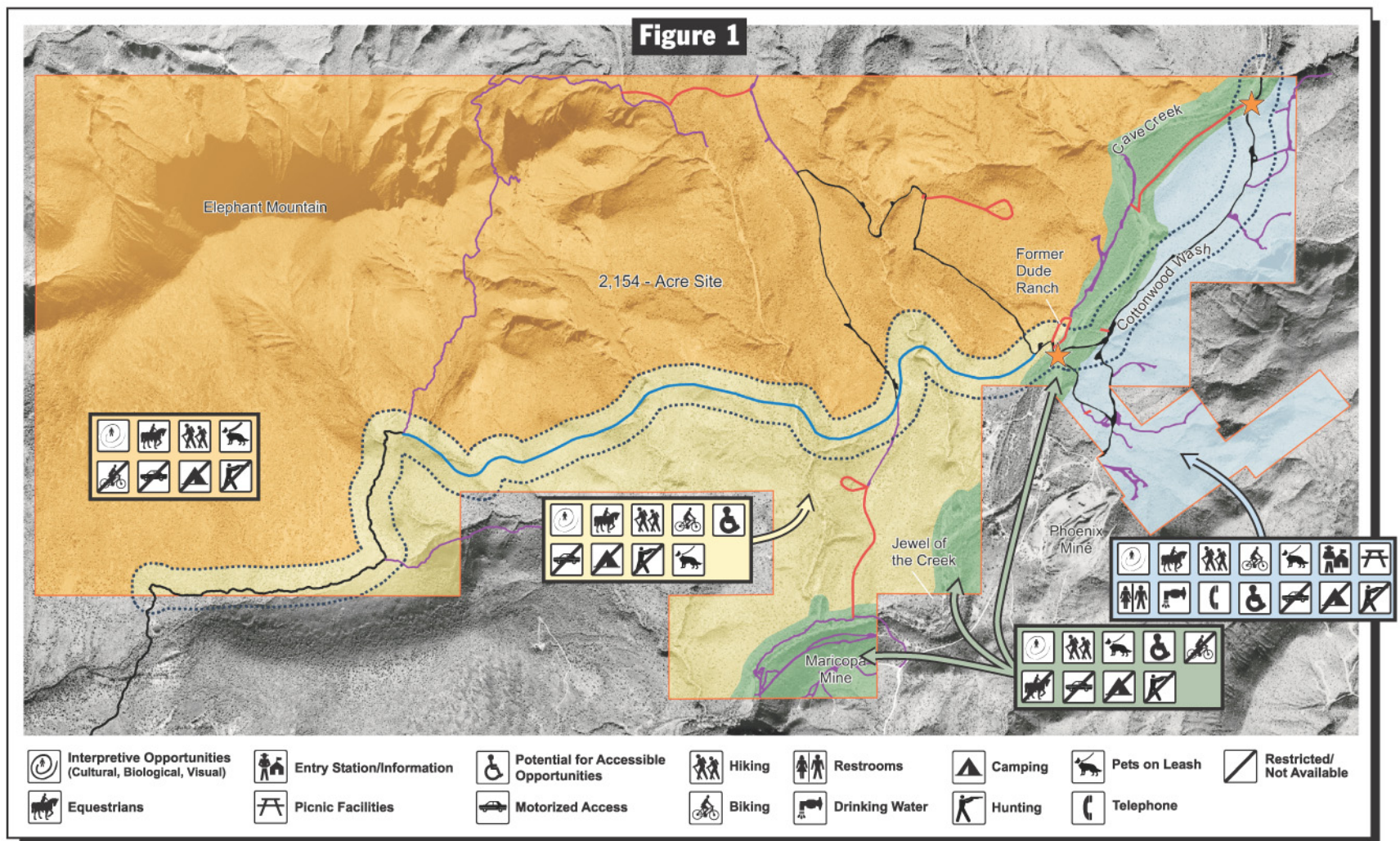
- ❖ Appropriate fencing and signage
- ❖ Trails and trailheads
- ❖ Comfort stations and information kiosks
- ❖ Entry station, visitor center
- ❖ Monitoring systems and security devices
- ❖ Maintenance area

The planning team anticipates conducting a third series of public and stakeholder meetings tentatively scheduled for September 2003.

Conceptual drawings will be available for review and comment that incorporate specific site design elements that will be proposed for implementation upon completion of the master plan as part of future capital improvement projects for SCRCA.

As we continue to move through this process all pertinent data and information collected from research and public/stakeholders input will be compiled into a comprehensive document. The document will discuss how the LAC was incorporated within the master plan; what are the sensitivities of natural, social, and cultural resources to visitor use; and what specific monitoring and implementation strategies can be utilized to ensure that unacceptable impacts do not occur as a result of public use of the conservation area.

It is anticipated that this document will be made available for public review tentatively in November or early December 2003.



## Legend

### General Map Features

- Project Boundary
- Proposed Maricopa County Regional Trail Study Corridor (500' wide)
- Existing Trail (Primary)
- Existing Trail (Secondary)
- Proposed Trail (Primary) Approximate Alignment
- Proposed Trail (Secondary)
- ★ Designated Creek Crossing

### Management Zones

- Spur Cross Trail Management Zone
- Cave Creek Management Zone
- Threshold Desert Upland Management Zone
- Primitive Desert Upland Management Zone